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Radiofrequency power deposition utilizing thermal imaging.

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Wavelength effects influence radiofrequency (RF) power deposition  
distributions and limit **magnetic resonance** (MR) medical  
applications at very high magnetic fields. The power depositions in  
spherical saline gel phantoms were deduced from proton resonance shift  
thermal maps at both 1.5 T and 3.0 T over a range of conductivities. Phase  
differences before and after RF heating were measured for both a quadrature  
head coil and a circular **surface coil**. A long echo time (TE)  
pulse sequence with a 3D phase unwrap algorithm provided increased thermal  
sensitivity. The measured thermal maps agreed with a model of eddy-current  
heating by circularly polarized oscillating RF fields in a conducting  
dielectric sphere. At 3.0 T, thermal maps were acquired with a <0.32  
degrees C temperature rise at 4 W. Proton resonance shift thermal maps  
provided a measure of hot spots in very-high-field **MR**  
**imaging** (MRI), in which both the phase sensitivity and  
signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) were increased. The method provides a means of  
studying the heat distribution generated by RF coils excited by clinical  
pulse sequences. Copyright 2004 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

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COUPLING BETWEEN BODY **COIL** AND **SURFACE COIL**

Author(s): BUCHLI R; SANER M; MEIER D; **BOSKAMP EB**; BOESIGER P

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